

# Center for Technical Development (CTD): FY19-20 Update and FY21 Plan

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NICHOLE M. EMBERTSON, PH.D.

*CENTER FOR TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT, CHAIR*

WA CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 19, 2020



Washington State  
Conservation Commission  
**CENTER FOR  
TECHNICAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

The **Center for Technical Development (CTD)** was created for the purpose of ensuring that Conservation Districts and employees have the proper tools and expertise to consistently plan and implement conservation programs in collaboration with the:

- *Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC),*
  - *Washington Conservation Districts (CD),*
- *Washington Association of District Employees (WADE),*
- *Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD),*
  - *Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS),*
  - *and other key conservation partners.*



# CTD Primary Areas of Service

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- Certification
- Training
- Planning Tools & Templates
- Mentoring & Support
- Communication & Outreach
- Technical Expertise & Science Support
- Quality Assurance
- Leadership



# CTD Planner Certification Program

## WHY

Provide a verifiable level of quality assurance in planners and planning for Districts and partner agencies

## HOW

Certify Conservation District technical planning staff as having the necessary skills, abilities, and support to plan to a recognized level

## WHAT

Maintain discipline specific certifications

Provide continuing education program to encourage growth and sustain expertise

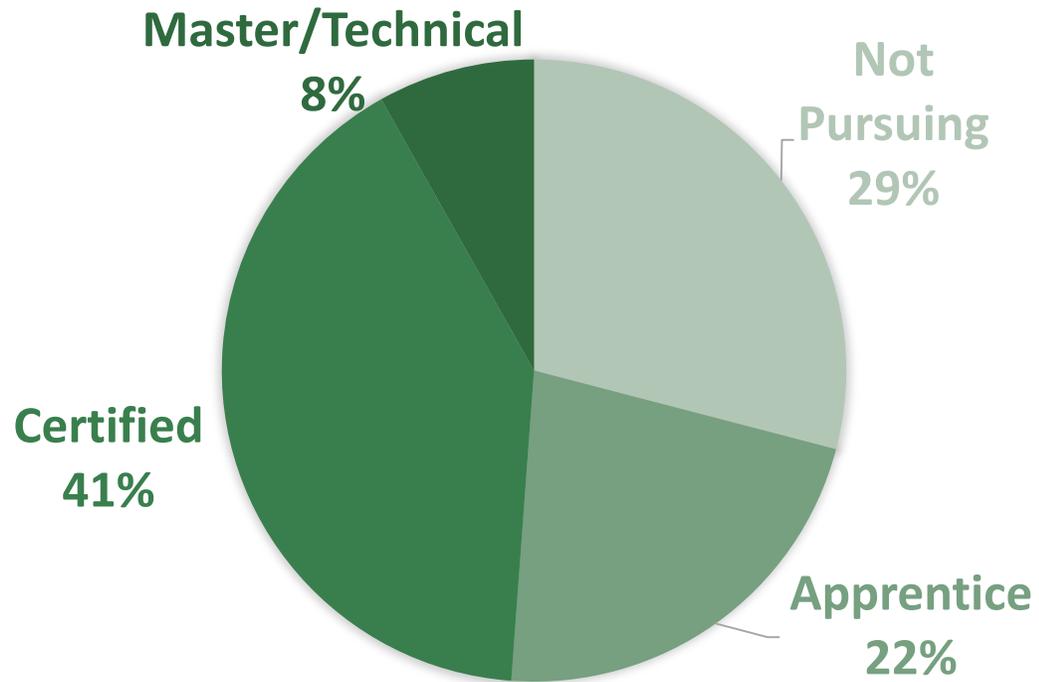
Enable access to necessary planning tools and templates

Connect to and build on partner certification

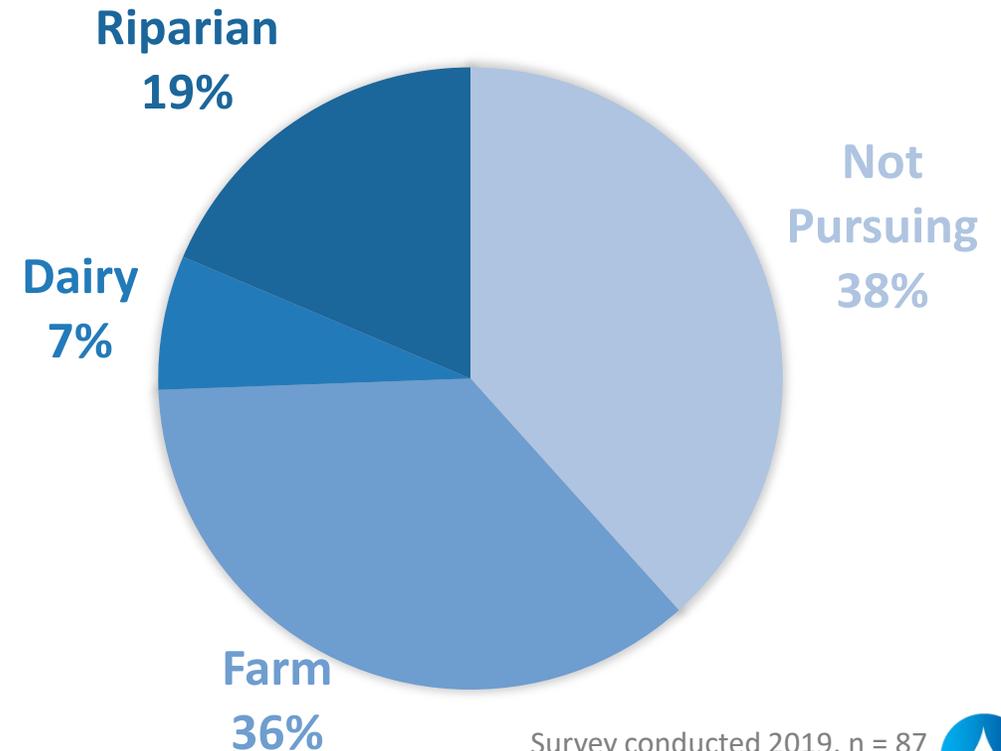


# Planner Designation & Certification

# PLANNERS PURSUING  
NRCS PLANNER DESIGNATION



# PLANNERS PURSUING  
CTD PLANNER CERTIFICATION



Survey conducted 2019, n = 87



# CTD Planner Certification

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CTD Certification application process open now!

**Riparian, Farm, and Dairy Planner Certifications**  
*(Forestry development in FY21)*

[www.wactd.org/certification](http://www.wactd.org/certification)

First round of applications due April 17, 2020



# CTD Planner Certification Support

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- Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Program
  - 40 hours every 3 years (matches NRCS)
- Mentorship and Support
- On-line Communication Forum (*in development*)
- Training Plan Template
- Prioritization into Training Events
- Development of *more* training opportunity and support



# CTD Sponsored & Partnered Training Highlights FY2018-19



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- ✓ Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) and Facilitation
- ✓ Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 2
- ✓ Riparian Planning Considerations
- ✓ Soil Health and Sustainability for Field Staff
- ✓ Basic Soils and Web Soil Survey (*WADE 2019*)
- ✓ Special sessions at WADE training 2019
- ✓ Introduction to Conservation Planning
- ✓ Webinars

# Training Highlights FY19-20

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## Coordinated Training Needs Inventory with NRCS

- ↑CD seats 20%
- Better coordination of information

*Introduction to Conservation Planning* hosted September 2019!

Awarded over \$5,000 in training scholarships in FY19

Collaborating with WADE Board to increase collaborative training opportunities

Provision of Training Plan Template for planners with 3-year training calendar *coming soon*

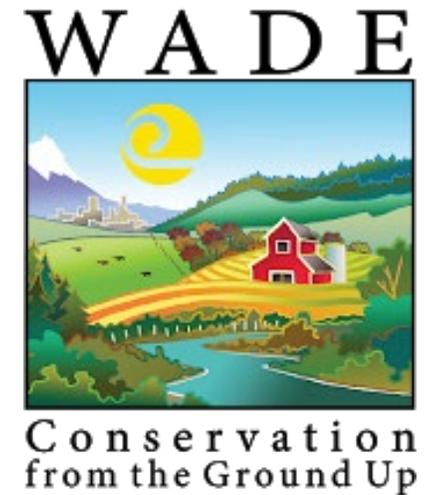
Working towards a CTD-NRCS designated Training Coordinator in FY21



# CTD Training Collaboration

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- CTD and **NRCS** are partnering to bring Districts more training opportunities
- CTD and **WADE** are collaborating on new technical track structure and content at WADE Conference
- CTD to provide certification **CEU** credit for Riparian, Farm, and Dairy planners





# Database

The CTD has created a Conservation District personnel database to not only capture staff and expertise across the State, but also to help you keep track of your relevant certifications and training records.

In an effort to streamline data management and provide CD employees a tool that can assist in their professional development, we've launched a self-service portal where you can identify your specialties, certifications, and selected trainings you've completed. This portal also removes the need for us to periodically call and verify information from your work. We encourage all District staff engaged in natural resources work to utilize this tool.

**NOTE: The database interface is currently in the beta-testing phase. We would love your feedback so that we can make it as user friendly and meaningful as possible: [database@wactd.org](mailto:database@wactd.org)**

Please take a couple of minutes to either:

Create New Account

Update Profile and Information

# www.wactd.org/database

## Personnel Profile for Nichole Embertson

Please review the information below and update accordingly. If you need assistance or have questions about this database, contact the database administrator at [database@wactd.org](mailto:database@wactd.org).

### Helpful Hints:

- Hover over to see instructions for filling out that field
- Use the blue buttons below to enter CTD/NRCS trainings and/or Continuing Education Units related to CTD Certifications.



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**This application is currently in BETA Version - [Provide Feedback](#)**

Logout

RECORD NRCS/CTD TRAININGS

RECORD CEUS

### Contact Information

District	Whatcom	WACD Region	Northwest
Do you work at another Conservation District in addition to Whatcom CD?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional District(s)	
First Name	Nichole	Last Name	Embertson
Email	nembertson@whatcomcd.	Phone	(360) 526-2381 x126

### Position Information

Job Title	Resource Coordinator - Sc	Hire date	11/01/2008
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### Specialty

1. Specialty	Air Quality	Year Started in Specialty	2007
Specialty Information	Air quality considerations in association with livestock and agriculture	Interested in Being a Mentor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Specialty	Planner: Dairy / Commercial Livestock	Year Started in Specialty	2008
Specialty Information	DNMPs, Nutrient Management, and general livestock systems planning	Interested in Being a Mentor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Quality Assurance in Planning

- ✓ To assure that the quality of conservation planning and technical assistance provided by Washington State Conservation Districts meets or exceeds an accepted standard of quality.
- ✓ CTD will develop, implement, review, and update a statewide Conservation Planning and Implementation *Technical Quality Assurance Plan* (TQAP) for Districts.
- ✓ District participation in TQAP is *optional* at this time.
- ✓ All Districts encouraged to have some type of TQAP to ensure a standard of quality in conservation planning and implementation.



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# CTD Website

One source for all CD  
planner support and  
information

[www.wactd.org](http://www.wactd.org)

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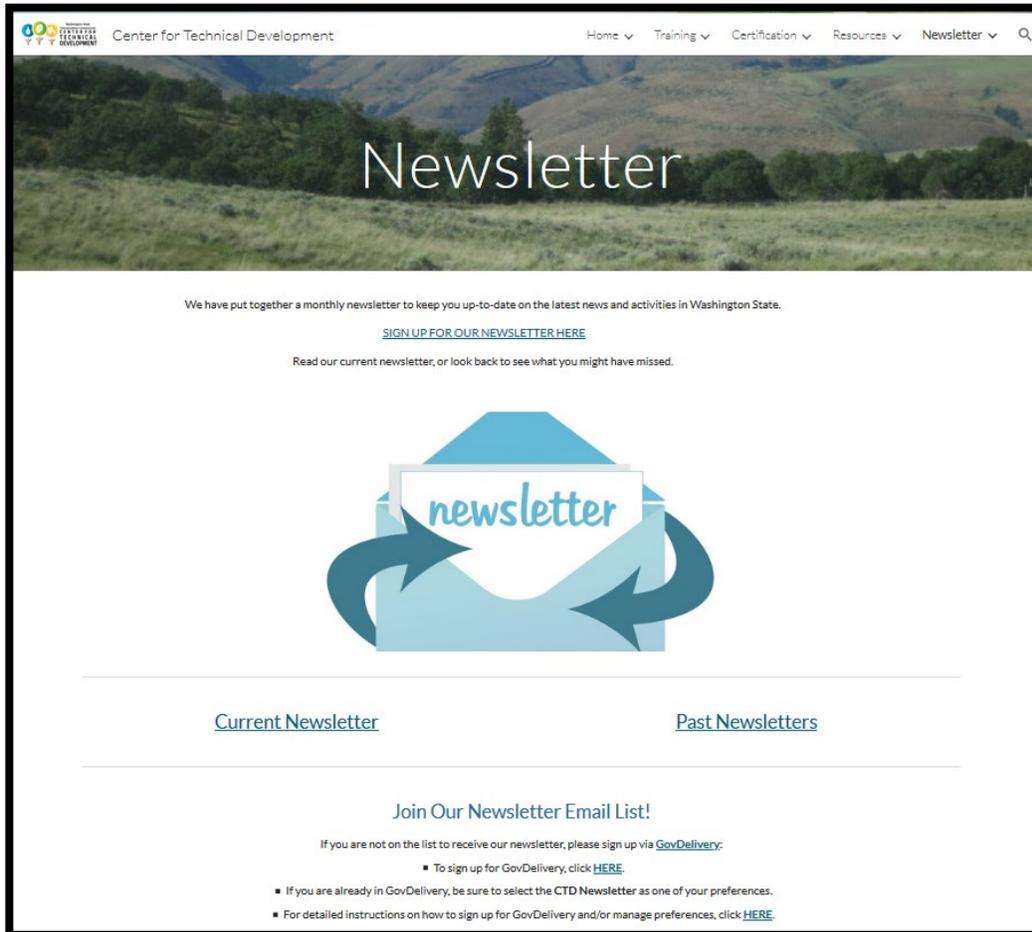
### Special Announcements

- The [CTD Database](#) is now up and running to capture your professional information. It also has the added benefit of tracking your training and course completion towards NRCS and CTD certification. Get started today by going to the [Database](#) page.
- NRCS is in the process of finalizing their 2019-2020 list of available training events. CTD will be sending out a pre-registration survey in late 2019 to get you locked into courses. **Make sure you are signed up for the CTD Newsletter on GovDelivery (sign up [HERE](#)) as we will send the registration survey link on there.**
- Check out the updated [Training Calendar](#) to see what training events are coming up.

[Training](#)   [Certification](#)   [Newsletter](#)   [New Employee Resources](#)

[Database](#)   [Planner Resources](#)   [AgLearn](#)   [More About the CTD](#)

# Connect to Information



## CTD Newsletter:

Primary source of training, certification, and other relevant information for CD Staff

Signup on GovDelivery

[www.wactd.org/newsletter](http://www.wactd.org/newsletter)



# CTD FY21 Annual Plan of Work *in Development*

## WORK ITEMS FULLY FUNDED

- Certification Program
- Continuing Education Unit program
- Training Coordinator (bonus!)
- CTD Training events (reduced)
- Partner Training events
- Communication and Outreach
- Database
- Leadership and partner engagement

## WORK ITEMS CUT/REDUCED DUE TO FUNDING

- Training scholarships
- Small training event grants
- Planning template development
- Small discovery grants program
- Mentor Program (reduced)
- Technical expertise engagement (reduced)
- Science support (reduced)
- Quality assurance program



## *CTD Leadership:*

- **Nichole Embertson**, Whatcom CD
- **Bobbi Lindemulder**, Snohomish CD
- **Josh Monaghan**, King CD
- **Jan Thomas**, Underwood CD
- **Robin Buckingham**, Pierce CD
- **Ryan Williams**, Mason CD
- **Shana Joy**, WSCC

# Questions??



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[www.wactd.org](http://www.wactd.org)

Contact:

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Chair, Center for Technical Development

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